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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

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TO: All Underground and Surface Coal Mining Operators

FROM: **Frank A. Linkous**
Frank A. Linkous, Division of Mines Chief

DATE: July 23, 2007

SUBJECT: ***Examination Fees***

During the June 21, 2007, meeting of the Board of Coal Mining Examiners (BCME) a review of examination fees being collected by the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy for the Coal Mining Examiners Fund was conducted. This review came as a result of the General Assembly amending §§ 45.1-161.31 and 45.1-161.32 of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia. Senate Bill 1091, approved April 4, 2007 and effective July 1, 2007, provides that reasonable fees in an amount set by the BCME, not to exceed \$50, could be assessed to cover administering of the miner certification program. Further, the BCME may assess a reasonable fee, not to exceed \$10 each, for replacement of lost or damaged certificates.

The BCME reviewed the current direct costs associated with administering examinations and mailing of Virginia miner certificates. Also, an in-depth review was conducted regarding the current certification fees imposed by our neighboring states of Kentucky and West Virginia. Upon completion of these reviews, the Board concluded that current Virginia examination fees were not adequate to cover costs for administering the mine certificate program and were well below those fees assessed by our neighboring states for providing comparable services. Therefore, the BCME unanimously approved a restructuring of examination fees, which became **effective July 1, 2007**. The new certification fees currently in effect are as follows:

Deleted: and considered

- All Miner Certification (except General Miner/Gas Detection) – **\$40.00**
- General Miner Certification (with Gas Detection, if required) – **\$20.00**
- All Replacement Certificates – **\$10.00**

If you have any questions concerning the change in examination fees or administration of the Coal Mining Examiners Fund, please contact Mary Gibson, Regulatory Boards Administrator, at (276) 523-8234 or Mary.Gibson@dmme.virginia.gov. Thank you.